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EIGHTH REPORT

THE

OF THE

MADRAS

Religious Tract Society,

MDCCCXXVII.

Madras:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,

AT THE CHURCH MISSION PRESS.

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THE PLAN.

1... That this Society be denominated the Madras Religious Tract Society.

2... That its object be the circulation of Religious Tracts in this Peninsula, on the same principle with that of the Religious Tract Society in London.

3...That the Tracts to be circulated by this Society, be those published by the Religious Tract Society in London, and such others as local circumstances may require, though always in the same tenor with the former.

4... That this Society pay annually or half yearly so much money into the funds of the Religious Tract Society in London, as the amount of its receipts may warrant, and that the Society be requested to supply this Society with such Tracts they may require.

5...That each Subscriber be entitled to receive Tracts estimated at reduced prices, to the amount of one half of his Subscription.

6...That each Subscriber of one fanam or upwards per month, shall be considered a member of the Society.

7... That the business of the Society be conducted by a Committee consisting of as many members as convenient, together with the Treasurer and the Secretary; five of the members to constitute a quorum.

8...That a General Meeting of the Subscribers take place every year on the 2d Tuesday of September; when the Treasurer, Secretary, and the Committee shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

9...That the Committee be anthorized to nominate Corresponding Members, from among such persons at Out-stations, as shall feel inclined to co-operate with the Society.

Proceedings of the Eighth General Meeting of the Madras Religious Tract Society, held in Mr. Ashton's upper room, Popham's Broad-way on Thursday Evening January 11th, 1827.

JAMES THOMAS, Esq.

Having been called to the chair, requested the Rev. E. Hoole to implore the divine blessing on the meeting, and called on the Secretary to read the report.

It was then moved by the Rev. R. Carver, Seconded by T. M. Lane, Esq. and

RESOLVED.

That the report which has been read, be received and adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the Committee.

On the motion of the Rev. E. Hoole, Seconded by W. Bannister, Esq.

RESOLVED.

That the special thanks of this meeting be tendered to John S. Hall, Esq. the Treusurer of the Truct Society, for his active and successful exertions in behalf of the Society's funds, and for his kind and efficient superintendence of its pecuniary concerns.

On the motion of the Rev. C. Traveller, Seconded by the Rev. J. W. Massie,

RESOLVED.

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the other officers of the Society, and the Committee who have managed its affairs during the year which is past, and that the gentlemen mentioned in the accompanying list be requested to act as the officers and Committee of the Society for the present year. On the motion of the Rev. J. Ridsdale, Seconded by J. Bainbridge, Esq.

RESOLVED.

That this meeting highly gratified by the increasing pecuniary support afforded to the Society, expresses its gratitude to the Father of mercies for this indication of his approval, and tenders its thanks to the various friends who have contributed, earnestly soliciting a continuance of their aid.

That the meeting also views with much satisfaction the increased number of its auxiliaries and tenders its thanks to the associations at Vizagapatam, Belgaum, Bangalore, Tranquebar, Combaconum and Jaffna, for the support they have afforded, requesting them to continue their exertions.

On the motion of the Rev. S. Laidler. Seconded by John S. Hall, Esq.

RESOLVED.

That the extending usefulness of this Society among Christians, as well as heathens, affords to this meeting the pleasing hope that it will be instrumental, among other means, in reviving the spirit of true religion in the Native Protestant Congregations of this Peninsula.

On the motion of the Rev. E. Crisp, Seconded by James Dalmahoy, Esq.

RESOLVED.

That this meeting while it rejoices that so large a number of tracts has been circulated, feels itself called to renewed and increased supplication for that blessing from on high which can alone render these labours productive of real good.

George Bennet, Esq. and the Rev. D Tyerman deputies from the Directors of the London Missionary Society afterwards addressed the Meeting, and expressed their ardent attachment to the Tract Society, and their joy and gratitude on beholding what it has here accomplished.

A verse was then sung, after which the Rev. J. Ridsdale closed the business of the Evening by prayer, and dismissed the assembly with the-Apostolical Benedicticn.

TREASURER.

J. S. HALL, ESQ. McLean Street, Black Town, SECRETARY. The Rev. Edmund Crisp.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

MR. G. VANSOMEREN.

DEPOSITARY.

The Rev. E. HOOLE.

COMMITTEE.

JOSTPH BAINBRIDGE, ESQ. WILLIAM BANNISTER, ESQ. Mr. J. BRADDOCK. The Rev. R. CARVER. J. DALMAHGY, ESQ The Rev. J. RIDSDALE. The Rev. W. SAWYER. The Rev. W. SPERSCHNEIDER. The Rev. W. TAYLOR. JAMES THOMAS, ESQ.

T. M. LANE, ESQ.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

The Rev. G. T. BARENBROCK, Tranquebar.
The Rev. J. Boys. A. M Secunderabad,
Captain W. BRETT,Cannanore.
The Rev. J. GORDON,Vizagapatam.
The Rev. J. Hallewell, A.M
The Rev. J. Hough,
The Rev. C. MEAD,Combaconam.
The Rev. J. MowATT, Negapatam.
The Rev C. RHENIUS, Palamcottah.
The Rev. J. C. WINCKLER,

And all Ministers of the Gospel whofeel interested in the design of the Society.

Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Treasurer.

Attendance is given on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays, at the Depository, in the rooms beneath the Wesleyan Chapel, Popham's Broad-way, Black Town.

EIGHTH REPORT.

T_{HE} operations of an institution, whose object is at once so definite and limited as that of a Tract Society, can hardly be expected to furnish much in the way of detail which will possess the charm of novelty. The necessity of its labours is previously supposed, and their precise character so fully determined, that all which can devolve on a Committee, in reporting their annual progress, is to be able to state that the labour has not been remitted, and that the effects resulting from that labour, as far as they can be traced, continue to furnish general and satisfactory evidence of its being of the kind which the nature of the case requires.

1.—Your Committee in reporting their proceedings during the past year, begin by stating that in the early part of it, they laboured under a great disadvantage in consequence of the failure of their supply of paper. This rendered it unavoidable that their proceedings should be

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delayed, and at the time they had no means of remedying the evil, but by obtaining a small grant on loan from the Madras Bible Society. The Vepery Mission has also obliged your Committee by making an advance of the paper which was needed to carry on the printing of Swartz's Dialogues.

In August your depository was replenished by the arrival of \pounds 20 worth of English Tracts, and 50 reams of printing paper; for which liberal grant the institution is laid under fresh obligations to the London Tract Society. This supply of paper enabled the Committee to repay what had been kindly lent them, and to reprint some Numbers on the list, the stock of which was before exhausted. The Committee have also availed themselves of an opportunity which offered of purchasing a supply of French paper. In the absence of a better kind they have made use of this for the printing of tracts, and it has been found to answer their purpose.

11.— Cotemporary with the failure of a supply of paper, was a very reduced state of the funds of the Society : but exertions were made by your Treasurer in various directions, which led to an increase in your pecuniary resources

Madras Religious Tract Society.

greater than had before been witnessed, and for which the Committee feel deeply indebted to the friend who made this exertion, and to those who so kindly came forward with their aid. The sums which it has been necessary to expend on the spot in purchasing paper to carry on the necessary work of the Society, together with the amount to be paid for printing charges, and two remittances, one of \pounds 10 and one of £ 20, to the Parent Society, will again nearly exhaust your funds and leave but a small balance in the hands of your Treasurer. This renders it necessary for the Committee again to make known their wants to the friends of the Society, and to solicit a renewal and a continuance of former liberality.

n1.—One tract added to the list of the Society's publications, since the last Anniversary, is the history of Petambera Sing. This Tract, originally published in Bengal, was translated into Teloogoo, and printed by the Bellary Tract Society, and has been adopted at their suggestion after having passed the usual examination by your Committee. It will very shortly be put to press.

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The publication of Mr. Swartz's Dialogues has proceeded in the way stated in the last report. Besides the two parts which were then announced four others have since been printed, which have brought the series down to the Sth Dialogue, and have added four new tracts to the number before prepared for distribution. Thus there has been additional variety given to the Society's tracts—every separate number being on a different subject.

IV.- The Committee have felt it desirable to have a small pamphlet prepared containing, in a condensed form, the substance of the various tracts which they have published. With this view an analysis has been drawn up, in which will be found a brief abstract of all the tracts at present on the list. This has passed through the Committee and will immediately be printed. It is designed to present to the friends of the Society a clear view of the nature of the tracts circulated, while it will enable those who wish to order the Society's publications, to judge more accurately what tracts are best adapted to particular places, and will guide in some measure the operations of distributors. This abstract will be sent to all persons engaged in the distribution of tracts, and will also be furnished on application to any others desirous of possessing it.

In the abstract will be found a mention of all the leading subjects of the above (Dialogues,) and to that the Committee beg to refer the members for any further information respecting them.

v.—Your Committee have learned with much satisfaction that Mr. Swartz's Dialogues are particularly acceptable to the native christians in general, and to those in Tanjore more especially. They feel much pleasure in administering to the spiritual wants of those among the natives who profess the Christian faith, and have determined to add to their list some tracts prepared expressly for the use of the Native Christians—either original_ compositions or translations of English Tracts.

v1.—The continuance of the Rev. J. Hough in India has enabled your Committee to avail themselves of his further and valuable services. A translation into Tamil of the Tract No. 26 on the Parent Society's list has been received from that Gentleman, which as soon as it has passed through the Tamil Sub-Committee will be printcd. It is entitled "short prayers for every day in the week," and is designed, by furnishing specimens of prayer to the Native Christians, to enable them to maintain the worship of God in their families.

v11.—Of the former publications of the Society there have been the following new editions, viz. 2000 of No. 5, 5000 of No 2, 2500 of No. 11, and the same of No. 12, besides 5000 of each of the Numbers 15, 16, and 17. These editions together with all the others which have been printed during the year will be seen more plainly from the following statement.

	-
May	No. 25. Scripture Extracts Part 1 2000
•••••	Bo
•••••	Do
·····	Bo 4 2010
*	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Do Entire 2009
August	No. 2, The Treasure 5000
October	No. 5, The Ten Commundments 2009
November	No. 16, Justice and Mercy 5000
• • • • • • • • • • • • • •	No. 12, The Anceint Prophecies 2500
	No. 17, The Culprit's vain Plea 5000
December	No. 11, The Birth of Christ 2500
	No. 15, Dialogue on Salvation 5000
	Swartz's Dialogues Part 3 5000
	4 5000
Making	a total of tracts

printed at the expense of the Society during the year.

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v111.—Your Committee have long been desirous of making some attempt in behalf of the Mahomedans, and are happy in stating that they have at last succeeded in purchasing a quantity of Hindoostanee tracts in Bengal which they hope shortly to receive. *

IX. --- ASSOCIATIONS.

Your Committee have much pleasure in stating that the Palamcottah and Nagercoil Tract Society, though it has not been able to accomplish so much during the past year as it did in the year preceding, has yet continued its operation with great activity, having issued duringthe year 14,500 tracts.

The report of the Bellary Tract Society has not been received by your Committee. That institution has however been supplied with Tamil Tracts from your Depository, and it has engaged to assist your committee by occasionally supplying Teloogoo Tracts in return.

The Tranquebar Association has remitted during the year 80 Rupees to your Treasurer, and has continued to labour in the same useful manner as before in the distribution of tracts.

^{*} These have since been received. For a list of them see Appendix. January, 20.

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The Combaconum Tract Society has raised 30 Rupees to aid the general purposes of this Society, besides the same sum being remitted by a friend in that neighbourhood for the express purpose of assisting in the publication of Swartz's Dialogues.

Your Committee have been favoured with a remittance of 100 Rupees from the Jaffna Tract Society, and Fifty Rupees from the Tract Society of Bangalore.

The friends of the Society at Vizagapatam have raised 91 Rupees for its support, besides the sum of 35 Rupees which has been remitted and the greater part of which is to be expended in the publications of the Society.

From the Belgaum Association this Society has received 25 Rupees, and it has furnished Portuguese and other tracts for distribution in that neighbourhood.

x.—There have been issued from the Depository during the year 32,000 Tamil Tracts, 5700 Teloogoo, 3000 Portuguese and 13,000 English making a total of 53,700.

The number issued in the first year was	11,722
2d	14,580
	9,060
4th,	5,060

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Madras Religious Tract Society.

The number	issued i	in the 5th	year was-	 17,400
		6th		 22,500
		8th		 53,700

Total since the formation of the Society in 1818, 190,031

To have been the means of sending into circulation among a heathen or unenlightened people one hundred and ninety thousand treatises on Christianity, respecting most, if not every one, of which it may be said, that it contains enough of divine truth " to save the soul" of him who receives it, though he should not see another, is no inconsiderable privilege. In a great many cases the seed has no doubt been fruitless, but as the husbandman contents himself with a result in general favourable and satisfactory, so your Committee have had sufficient proof that their labour in this spiritual husbandry is not in vain in the Lord. The increase of religious knowledge and of a spirit of enquiry among the patives are general effects which in most cases are seen to result from the distribution of tracts, even where instances of decided and personal benefit are wanting. In proof of this the Committee submit a few extracts from the correspondence with which they have been favoured. x1.—The Rev. Mr. Winckler of Sadras reporting the distribution of tracts observes.

I have at different times in this year walked through the town of Sadras, with the express view of distributing Tamil Tracts, and of conversing with the natives about the contents. To that end I have commonly desired my native assistant to read one tract or other, which I thought fittest to rouse the attention of the people to the most important of christian truths. Afterwards I have explained one or other sentence of the Tract, or endeavoured to enforce it upon their consciences. In this manner I had in a few intances the satisfaction, of making them desirous of reading those and other tracts I had with me. But respecting the generality of the Natives at this place I made the painful observation that they are averse from every thing which according to their own opinion, would endanger their heriditary customs and religion. To that backwardness which led many to avoid conversation with me, and refuse to receive the tracts, it is to be attributed, that little more, than about 100 tracts have been disposed of in this place

In the villages round about, I had however more opportunity, not only of distributing, but of conversing freely with the natives about the contents of the tracts. In one village particularly, the tract I first read to them occasioned a very interesting conversation about the great truths of the gospel, I was astonished to hear, some of them expose several errors of the Brahmins, giving preference to the christian doctrines, particularly on the subject of prayer. They inquired much about the Lord Jesus Christ, respecting whom I read several passages to them from the gospel of Matthew.

At a Choultry some miles farther, there were many native passengers, assembling round about me, who, after having heard several tracts read to them, desired with much eagerness to possess some of those new books, in order to make a present of them to their children, who could read better than themselves.

After I had left the choultry on my return home, a young man, who before received a few tracts from me, ran after me, requesting me to give him some more of those tracts, as his friends were also desirous of getting some.

The following day, another young man came to Sadras from one of the villages where I had been, to receive another supply for himself and his friends.

Thus the number of 120 copies of the revised gospel of St. Matthew found their way in 2 days among people of different places and have been with some probably, the means of directing their attention to the source of life the word of God, as I have found in some instances.

On my late journey to Madras I stopped at different places and choultries, and according to my usual plans first had some of the tracts read by my native assistant. There also the desire of getting and reading the tracts was excited in many. One instance however deserves peculiar notice.

At the choultry commonly called Wauneyan choultry, I caused the tract, " on the last judgment" to be read. Several people assembled round about, among whom also a young Brahmin listened attentively. A peon endeavoured to raise suspicion in the hearers, and particularly addressed the Brahmin. But the latter answered : " Let me first hear, what is said in the book, and then I can judge about it." He remained and afterwards asked for tracts and for the gospel of Matthew. At the St. Thomé river he came again to me, with another man a Sannyâsi, requesting more books. I gave them more tracts, but they also wished for more copies or parts of the Scriptures:

x1.—The Rev. W. Howell of Cuddapah under date of December 7th Observes.

The information you require regarding the distribution of Religious Tracts, is pretty nearly the same as last year but

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as to instances of good resulting from them, I have not had the pleasure of ascertaining any as yet, except that individuals, who have received tracts and taken them into the country, have there made their purport known, so as to induce others to come in quest of tracts, when their business brings them into Cuddapah. They then make enquiries for me, and request to be supplied with such as they have read, which they name at the same time, and when they are put into their hands they are read without hesitation: I have in this way given away several hundreds of tracts. The history of Joseph in Teloogoo, I have put into the schools, and the children read it as a class book."

x1.—The following particulars are communicated by the Rev. W. Taylor under date of Madras, December 20th 1826.

February 2d, 1826.--At the village of Chindadrepettah on visiting the school, I called on the people who assembled around, during the examination to give me their attention, and proceeded to read the tract on the last judgment. My audience gradually increased while doing so, and appeared to listen with attention. I afterwards distributed a great many copies of this tract, along with others, till I had no more left.

March 16th.—At the same place addressed the people from a passage of scripture, when a greater interest than I had before seen was excited occasioned partly by one man stepping forth to dispute on the subject. When he had thought proper of his own accord to depart, I held up a large bundle of tracts to the people, and after mentioning their titles said 1 proposed giving them away. Many hands where instantly held out, and I was unable to distribute them fast enough. They gathered round me so thick and were so impatient, that I was at last obliged to give the remaining five or six to themselves desiring them to settle the distribution, as I had no more. March, 21st and April, 25th.—At Tirunindroor 20 miles from Madras distributed on both these occasions, several copies of tracts to natives of various castes Brahmins and Soodras, by most of whom were well received : and I saw some few attentively reading them afterwards.

April 27th .-- At Vellout Choultry. In consequence of a school in the neighbourhood being under repairs, the children were brought to me, and while hearing them repeat their scripture lessons and catechisms, several people from the village gathered round. After addressing them from the 3d John, I told them I had small books to give away, and on offering them tracts they were well received, though not without some apparent wonder. I readily perceived that tracts were povelties here. I afterwards saw several persons round reading the tracts they had received, and, what was very pleasing, I had continual applications for more. At the same time a Brahmin in an opposite shed, began channing aloud some of their stories; but I observed that he gained very few auditors; something more novel having for the present attracted the people's attention. Just before coming away I was forced to reply to applications for tracts, that I had no more; and I believe this was the first time of my returning from the country without a single tract remaining in my possession.

September 8th.—At the village of Kovil-pedari, several people having listened to the children of the school, while repeating their lessons, as they appeared to be mere vacant gazers, I told them I would give them something further to occupy their attention, and gave tracts to each one of those who were present.

During the year I have distributed in this way I believe, about a thousand copies. I have chosen instances that look favourable, though impartiality required it to be added that examples might have been adduced when tracts have been declined or refused, there however would be very few in proportion."

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 $_{XIV.}$ —The Rev. Mr. Barenbruck of Myaveram has brought to the notice of the Committee many interesting circumstances from which the following are selected.

" In the course of this year, especially after our settling at Myâveram, since May last, a considerable number of tracts in Tamil have been distributed to many Brahmins and Soodras and those that come here frequently to the Cutchery of the Tasildar, and on the great festival when many hundred people had come to the place to wash in the river Kavery the water of which they consider of the same virtue at that season as the Ganges or even more efficacious. At that time many people that had come from other distant places made application for tracts which were explained to them and given to such as were able to read them. The Readers, school Inspector, and assistants have also distributed to them, it is very common that after they have read and explained the tract, for those that hear them to desire to have the tract; and even such as do not know how to read, beg for a copy, saying that they will desire their neighbours or the school masters in their village to read and explain it to them. Many instances have come to my notice in which the people who receive tracts, read them in their houses with a desire to know and understand them ; for on application for other tracts, they have informed us of the contents of those tracts they had received, and there are many of them that acknowledge the truth."

John Dewasagayam visiting one evening one of the principal Merchants in this place, saw a young man reading the tract "Regeneration". The merchant and his friends were hearing it with apparent attention. This man and several of his friends having visited me at the Mission House in the morning received some tracts from me. One of them was

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a Brahmin he told John that on returning to his house, he met a principal Meerasdar of the neighbouring village who seeing the tracts begged him to give one to him, saying that he had been for a long time desirous to read them and he was obliged to comply with his request as he was a respectable man. He mentioned this with some concern.

Two respectable Brahmin Shastries of this place brought a young Brahmin with them, who for several days, as they said, had troubled them to use their influence with me to procure him a tract. I gave him ' the Incarnation of Christ.' and two other tracts. By reading the former the main subject of the tract, the human nature of Christ as the Son of God, which had been for some days the subject of their conversation, and to which they had always objected, and become sometimes troublesome to me by their vain questions, appeared in another light to him, and they have appeared since more inclined to hear than to object. It was on the whole pleasing to see that Brahmins introduced a young man for instruction in divine truth, when according to the nature of things they would have rather persuaded him to desist from applying for a tract, than introduce him to our notice.

Sometimes when engaged with heathens in public places, we find some troublesome men mix with the crowd with an intention to disturb or interrupt the reading of the word of God; on conversation we have recourse to the tracts, and offer to read them to which some of the hearers will almost always consent. In this way the disturbance having ceased and the disturber seeing he cannot obtain his point goes on his way, and we may go on explaining the tracts and the word of God, for some though they object to be instructed from the SattyaVeda "The Bible, do not object to be instructed from the tracts."

Having on the 12th Instant a meeting of about 30 heathens, they were asked how they found those of their people that are in the habit of reading our tracts, they replied that they never hear them speak evil of the books, but that many express a conviction of their containing real wisdom for the Salvation of men.

xv.—During the year your Committee has been deprived of the labours of one of its most zealous and active members John F. Thomas, Esq. Your Committee hope that their loss will prove to be but temporary and that one who so regularly filled his place at their meetings, and so ably assisted in their deliberations will soon be able to return to a sphere, where the exertions of wise and good men are so much needed.

xv1.—The Abstract of receipts and Disbursements shews the income of the Society during the year to have amounted to Rupees 2424: 13: 1, which is nearly 500 Rupees more than the preceding year. The increase of subscriptions in particular to the Society is highly gratifying, because it affords the earnest and pledge of continued support. Although from the cash account it would appear that there is a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, yet the Society is under engagements which will involve an expenditure nearly equal to that amount. Madras Religious Tract Society. 1

The Committee have thus brought before the subscribers the leading and most important circumstances connected with their proceedings, and while they beg to remind the Christian public of the urgent necessity which there is for being stedfast and immovable, and for abounding in the work of the Lord; they would also suggest the supreme importance of accompanying all our active exertions by prayer to the Father of lights; that he may be pleased to add his blessing, and by means of this and similar institutions put an end to that lamentable state of ignorance and moral degradation, in which ' darkness covers the land, and gross darkness the People.'

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RECEIPTS AND ISSUES OF TRACTS IN 1826.

English and Tamil. 126 126 104 55 500 032,019, 5,766 24537, 03910, 750 24571, 30511, 250 24539, 286 5, 484 Teluogoo. 034, 266 Tamil. German. 320 320 320 0 0 Danish. 613 613 613 0 0 Dutch. 9, 148 2, 995 5,148 4,000 6, 153 Portuguese. 0 341 341 50 291 French. . 22, 233 Total. ...31, 912 .. [13, 051 English. Balance in hand December, 1826.... Issued to December 1826..... Received in 1826.....

DEPOSITARY

E. HOOLE.

1827.

lst. January,

LIST OF TRACTS,

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

N- O m m
No. 2The Treasure.
Tamil.—பொக்கிஷிம்.— ஒருவன இந்தமு
டு லோசத தையும் ஆதாயமாககிக்கொண
டாலுந தன ஆத துமா வையிடி ந து போனு
ல அவனுக்குலாபடுமனன.
Also in Teloogoo.
No. 4.—The New Birth.
Tamil.— மஅபிறபபு.— ஒருமனிதன மஅ
படியுமபிறநதாலொழியபபாலோகததிற
பிர்வேசிக்கக்கூடா து.
Teloogoo.—మూరుపుట్టు క
No. 5The Ten Commandments of God.
Tamil.—சன்மார்க்கபபிர்மாணம.— இத
பராபரன அருளிசசெயத பத துககற்பனே
களேயுட அவைகளிலுள்ள தாற்பரியததை
யுஙகாடடியது.
No. 6.—The Way of Righteousness.
Tamil.—நீதமார்ககம. — தமிழனுமவெள
ளேககார் னுடி பேசிககொணடசங்வாதம்.
No. 7.—Christ's Incarnation.
Tamil. – கிறிஸ் துவினுடைய அவதார்ம.
No. 8.—The Way to Heavenly Bliss.
Tamil பர்டுகதிமார்க்கம்.

The printing of No. 1, and of No. 3, is discontinued.

Tracts published

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